

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The only outstanding issue is a section 103 rejection over the combination of Hesch, Shealy, and Riley.

Applicants do not agree with the allegation over Hesch for reasons of record, but even assuming that the allegations are correct, which is not admitted, the combination of Hesch with Shealy does not render the claims obvious. Hesch does not teach or suggest the administration of a gestagen.

Shealy teaches a method for elevating serum levels of DHEA (an androgen) in an individual through the use of regularly administered topical treatments of an ointment (cream) containing progesterone. (Emphasis added.) See column 3, lines 38-43. The progesterone cream should be applied in a pharmacologically effective amount to elevate the patient's serum levels of DHEA. See column 3, lines 45-49. The administration of the ointment should be to "specific locations of the patient's body." See column 3, lines 33-37. Shealy further teaches that daily electrical stimulation applied to specific acupuncture points combined with daily topical application of a pharmaceutical preparation containing progesterone provides the greatest increase in serum DHEA levels. See column 3, lines 63-67.

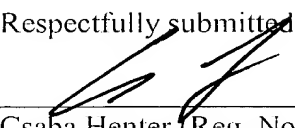
Thus, Shealy teaches topical treatments effective to stimulate specific points of the body to raise DHEA levels. Shealy does not teach or suggest the administration of progesterone to achieve a gestagenic effect - only to achieve an androgenic effect, i.e., increase endogenous DHEA levels. Shealy does not even hint that gestagenically effective amounts of any gestagen should be administered.

Riley only addresses the dosages of androgens and gestagens independently of each other. Nothing in this reference teaches or suggests that androgens or gestagens should be administered together. Thus, Riley does not render any of the claims obvious and especially not claim 1.

Applicants submit that none of the prior art references together or individually teach or suggest the claimed invention. None provide any motivation to combine a gestagen with androgen in the claimed method. None even imply that, despite the unsettled nature of the field, such a combination provides the prophylaxis recited in the claims. See specification page 9, lines 4-8, for example. Thus, the claims are not obvious.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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